

FIRST STRIKE

JULY, 2007

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THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TOO IN JULY

- PT TEST
- OCS CLASS 47'S DINING OUT!
- HIKE UP CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN
- END OF PHASE COUNSELING
- PREPARATION FOR PHASE III

Getting Excited About OCS

I had only attended one drill and I wanted to quit! I returned for a second drill and I wanted to resign once again. In fact my mind was filled with thoughts of quitting throughout the June drill. The Monday after the June drill I called my friend, a former Captain in the Army, and she listened to me whine for about 10 minutes and then asked if I can spell the word "sniveling". Another friend who is preparing to retire from the Air Force encouraged me to be grateful for the training and experiences. After whining for at least 10 days I decided that I cannot quit, not because I care

"OCS is challenging in many ways but the greatest challenges lies within my mind..."

about what people think or I fear being labeled a quitter. I cannot quit because I don't want to; therefore I had to get excited (yes, excited) about OCS. I decided to be excited and enthusiastic about attending drill, rather than to dread the experience. OCS is challenging in many ways but the greatest challenges lies within my mind, which makes me my worst enemy. Break the barriers, disregard the negative, accept the hard work, and persevere – that's what I am going to do. And yes, I am truly excited about OCS!

-OC Zavislak

SPOTLIGHT: SFC GUIDO

SFC Guido is currently deployed. He was excited to hear from us and to answer our questions.

1. Can you tell us about your military background?

I have been in the military for 19 plus years. At the end of this deployment, I'll have 13 years active duty army and 6 years in the Arizona Army National Guard. I have worked as a Personnel Specialist, a Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological NCO, a Fire Prevention Specialist, an Instructor, and as a Fire

Chief.

2. Can you tell me what you do on the civilian side and how long you've been doing it?

I work as a Fire Captain/Paramedic for the Mount Lemmon Fire District. I have been a Firefighter for almost ten years, a Paramedic for 3 plus years and a Fire Captain for two.

3. What made you want to become a TAC NCO, and what do you enjoy most about the position?

SPOTLIGHT: SFC GUIDO, CONTINUED...

I like to work in both the formal and informal classroom and enjoy watching the candidates as they progress through the program; gaining knowledge and confidence in their abilities, even though at times, they (the candidates) can't see or feel the progress themselves.

4. What do you look for in a candidate and what do you feel a candidate has to do to make it through OCS?

I look for a candidate who is prepared mentally and has the 'never quit' mentality. OCS, at times, can be a grind and the candidate that understands that the program is a marathon, prepares themselves each month, and is determined to complete the program will be successful.

5. Can you give advice to future officers about deploying and what they need to take care of when they do deploy?

I can give lots of advice, the best thing I think I can say is to get

"I became a TAC NCO because I like to instruct."

the soldier the information they need as quickly as possible. Soldiers are innovative and creative, they need to know the plan and they need leadership and guidance. The best advice for future officers is to ensure that soldiers understand what is expected of them. Give your NCOs the responsibility for supervising the plan, and you as Officers conduct follow up. It's so simple even a candidate can do it. :)

6. Can you tell me about your family?

I met my wife when I was stationed overseas. I have been married for twenty three years (some years were better than others) and I have two children. My Son Christopher is 20 and is a Junior at University of Arizona (Dual Major -Optical Science and Mechanical Engineering) My Daughter

"Tell everyone I said to, 'keep up the good work, you're almost there.' "

Kristina just turned 13 and will be in

8th grade this year. I have recently developed an infatuation with my golf clubs and I suspect with my children grown up, I will spend more time with them (the golf clubs that is)

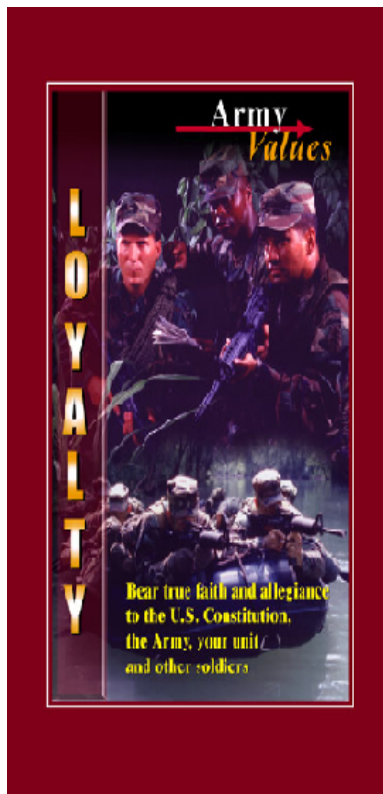
SFC Guido hopes all the candidates are well and looks forward to hearing from them soon. Tell everyone I said to, "keep up the good work, you're almost there."

SFC Guido

-SOC SMITTLE

ARMY VALUES: LOYALTY

As defined by the Army, loyalty is to “bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other soldiers.” Loyalty is the glue that binds the Army and its soldiers together. Whether through patriotism, obedience, friendship or a combination of factors, loyalty is developed and strengthened over time. As soldiers work together, they become faithful to each other and the larger unit. Trust is the key part of building loyalty, and the building of trust is dependent on all the other Army values. As soldiers live the Army values, they learn to trust and depend on each other. Each of us has read stories of soldiers who have sacrificed and even died for their comrades and country because of loyalty. In Band of Brothers, soldiers of Easy Company had developed such loyalty that they



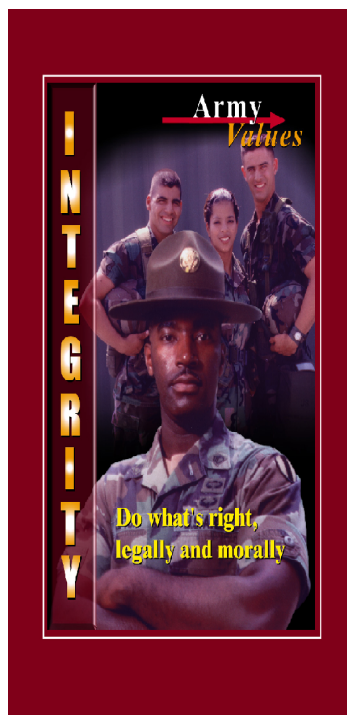
would forgo medical evacuation when wounded or ‘escape’ from the hospital to stay and fight with their unit.

Disloyal actions can diminish this bond. For example, being openly critical of other soldiers, leaders or the Army can undermine command authority, hurt morale and reduce effectiveness. Sometimes an assignment can be difficult or unpopular, but a positive attitude while accomplishing the task is an example of how loyalty can be strengthened. However, this is not to be confused with blind obedience. Officers take an oath to defend the Constitution and obey lawful orders. Sometimes being loyal means taking an unpopular stance or using the chain of command to make sure the greater good of the unit and Army is upheld.

-OC BURGESS

ARMY VALUES: INTEGRITY

Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, “The time is always right to do what is right.” This quotation fits closely with the Army definition of integrity which is to always do what is right, personally and morally. In every situation, there are two possibilities for success. First, there is the success that comes from reaching the desired goal and accomplishing the mission. Secondly, but with no less importance, is the ability to reflect that the goal was accomplished without compromising morals or losing one’s integrity. It is not always possible to say that one meets the first goal; unknown circumstances and unseen obstacles can often impede the completion of a successful mission. However, if a person holds a true course, refuses to allow room for compromise, and stands firm in his beliefs, he will always be able to claim victory in the area of maintaining his integ-



ity. A person of integrity can always be trusted to make the sometimes unfavorable, unpopular, hard decisions. These decisions are often based on what is good for the whole versus what is good solely for himself or herself. Each one of the Army Corps Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are building blocks that a person should use to fortify his character. When these attributes are brought together they form a solid platform that any leader can stand on to become the leader that others will follow.

-OC MILNER

THE M249 SAW

The M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (or M249 SAW) is the designation for a sub-family of the FN Minimi squad automatic weapon (Derived from French meaning: "mini-machine gun". These two weapons are 5.56 x 45 mm NATO light machine guns manufactured by Fabrique Nationale (FN) and a variety of subsidiaries.

The Minimi is produced by Fabrique Nationale in Belgium, while the M249 SAW is made by the American subsidiary of Fabrique Nationale, FNH. The M249 won in a competition hosted by the U.S. military in the late 1970s and early 1980s for a new squad automatic weapon. The Minimi has been adopted by many other NATO countries since this time.

Several non-NATO countries have also adopted the weapon.

The M249 was adopted by the US and NATO due to their desire to have a new smaller round. The Belgian cartridge (SS109), was developed for use with the Minimi, and later was the winner of the competition for the new, standardized 5.56 mm round. The United States, adopted the M16A2 following the M249 in a move to capitalize on the compatibility of the, although different, round. Weapons intended to fire the SS109 cartridge use a different rifling twist rate (1:7 inches) from the previous U.S. standard 5.56 mm cartridge.

The M249 was adopted by the US and NATO due to their desire to have a new smaller round.

The Minimi and the M249 are not exactly the same weapon — they have different weights and have slightly different configurations; M249 SAWs can differ greatly. Some early production problems in the 1980s delayed full deployment until the early 1990s. One thousand Minimis were purchased directly from FN for the Gulf War in 1991, as there were not enough M249s yet in service at the time. The M249 has undergone improvement programs. However, it is scheduled to be replaced by a new lightweight machine gun — possibly, the AAI LMGA (2004 contract). In early 2005, a contract for a new light machine gun was issued.

-OC SALINAS



SAW Characteristics

Primary function: Hand-held combat machine gun

Manufacturer: Fabrique Nationale Manufacturing, Inc.

Length: 40.75 inches (103.81 centimeters)

Weight:

With bipod and tools: 17.00 pounds (7.718 kilograms)

200-round box magazine: 6.92 pounds (3.14 kilograms)

30-round magazine: 1.07 pounds (.49 kilograms)

Bore diameter: 5.56mm (.233 inches)

Maximum effective range: 3281 feet (1000 meters) for an area target

Maximum range: 3600 Meters

Rates of fire:

Cyclic: 725 rounds per minute

Sustained: 50 rounds per minute

Unit Replacement Cost: \$4,087

SUMMER SAFETY: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

With outdoor activities and gatherings with friends and family, summer can be a very fun time of year. In order for summer to remain fun, it is important to realize the possible risks of these activities and take measures to minimize them.

Some common hazards of recreational activities include doing too much activity too soon after long periods of inactivity, insect stings and bites, only being active during the weekends, overdoing physical activity, and shin splints.

Three key factors of recreational safety are:

- Know your limits: do not push your body too far beyond its capacity
- Understand the hazard: anticipate potential hazards for activities you will be partaking
- Prepare beforehand: Maintain a level of physical fitness that will allow you to participate in the activities you are interested in and use any necessary personal protective equipment

By being aware of the potential hazards of recreational activities, and preparing for them, you and your loved ones can enjoy a safe and happy summer.

For more information about this and other safety topics, you can visit

<http://www.wramc.amedd.army.mil/safety>

-WOC GONZALES



OCS CLASS 47

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